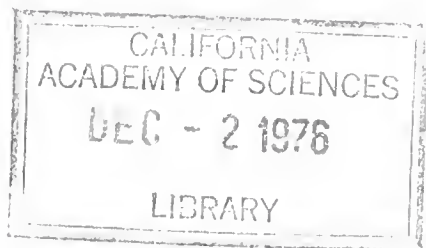


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the gull

Volume 58

Berkeley, Calif.

December 1976

Number 11

Season's Greetings!

The 1976 Oakland Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for Sunday, December 19, and we're hoping for the best day ever. Beginning birders or newcomers to the area are welcome to participate with our more experienced members in this traditional event. The success of the count (and the Oakland count has been notably successful—last year we were first in number of participants, *out of 1141* counts, and tenth in the U.S. in number of species) depends on each field team having a good leader, helpful spotters, and an accurate recorder.

Soup, bread and coffee will be served in the Palm Room of the Berkeley YMCA at 2001 Allston Way, across from the Post Office, from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. on count day. Compilation of the count will begin at about 7:00 p.m., and will take the place of our general membership meeting for this month.

If you are interested in helping with the count, or want more information about it, call Leora Feeney at 522-8525. If you have a feeder in your yard and will be able to keep a tally of birds visiting it on count day, please contact Clark Gleason at 843-8846. If you can't participate in the count but would like to attend the compilation, please call the office (843-2222) and tell Vera.

Leora Feeney, *Compiler*

OTHER NEARBY CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Dec. 18, Point Reyes; for information write or phone Bruce Sorrie, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, 4990 Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach Calif. 94970 (868-1434). **Dec. 19, Benicia;** Frank Beyer, 409 Rollingwood Dr., Vallejo, Calif. 94590 (707-644-0236). **Jan. 1, Southern Marin County;** Phil Schaeffer, Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, Calif. 94920 (388-2524). **Jan. 2, Contra Costa County;** Bob Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo, Calif. 94507 (837-2843).

N.A.S. CONDOR SYMPOSIUM—NOT ENCOURAGING

The National Audubon Society-sponsored Condor Symposium held October 23 in San Rafael, was well attended. Members of the California Condor Recovery Team, including Audubon Condor Naturalist John Borneman, discussed various aspects of the condor recovery plan. The objective of the recovery plan is to maintain a population of at least 50 condors distributed throughout their 1974 range with a birth rate of at least 4 young per year and the lowest possible death rate.

Some of the problems affecting the condors are 1) inadequate food supply in some areas, 2) pesticides in their food, 3) human intrusion in condor habitat, 4) shooting. In recent years the birth rate has averaged about 2 young per year. The condor population is decreasing and the present population appears to be 40-50 birds, according to recent surveys.

In an attempt to reverse this alarming trend, the recovery team has proposed 1) to develop artificial nesting cliffs where an adequate food supply exists in the condor range, and 2) the use of propagation in captivity as a means of maintaining the condor population. These proposals are now being considered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is hoped the recovery plan's objectives can be achieved.

OTHER NEWS—President Ford signed the tax bill which clarifies the amount of lobbying tax-exempt organizations can do without penalty. This bill will allow us to be a more effective conservation organization. We hope to have more details on this, along with addresses of legislators and other public officials, in a future *Gull*.

—DAVID LITTLEJOHN, *Conservation Chairman*

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM SERIES

The third film of the Audubon Wildlife Film Series, 1976-1977, will be presented Tuesday, December 7, 1976, at the Oakland Auditorium Theater, 10th and Fallon Streets, at 7:30 p.m.

"East Side Story, Bahamas to Quebec" is a beautiful tribute to the wonders of nature on the east coast of North America by Walter Berlet. He has presented over 20 educational films and 14 television shows to audiences in Japan, many European countries, Mexico, Canada, and the United States.

Birding enthusiasts in our midst who have been fortunate enough to see the rare Kirtland's Warbler in its nesting area in Michigan will see it on the screen in the Bahamas before its spring migration. Mr. and Mrs. Berlet follow the eastern sun northward from early spring to late summer, penetrating swamps, exploring islands and bays, mountains and rivers. Mr. Berlet's artistic skill with the camera is renowned and his film presentations have been well received by his audiences.

Tickets: adult \$2.00, student (under 18) \$1.50, children under 12 free if accompanied by parent.

—DANNE JONES, *Coordinator (654-1286)*

Winter Birding Classes With Joe Morlan

This winter Golden Gate Audubon is sponsoring a continuing series of birding classes in conjunction with the Albany Adult School. An evening class for intermediate students will begin Tuesday, January 4 at Albany High School, 603 Key Route Boulevard, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. It will consist of a series of evening lectures and field trips on alternate Saturdays.

A day class consisting of a series of field trips suitable for beginning or intermediate students will begin Thursday, January 6, from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. A series of field trips for advanced students will be offered on alternate Saturdays beginning January 8 from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Enrollment will be limited in all field classes.

Registration is \$6.00 for all classes. The winter quarter lasts eleven weeks. For further information call the Albany Adult School at 526-6441.

... And in Walnut Creek

A field and lecture course on birds of the Bay Area and Northern California will be offered at the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum of Natural Sciences in Walnut Creek, starting Wednesday, January 19, at 7:30 p.m. The instructor will be Craig Hohenberger. This six-week course consists of two lectures and six one-day field trips on weekends. Binoculars are required.

The cost of the class will be \$25.00. For more information call the museum at 935-1978 or write to Sam Smoker, Lindsay Junior Museum, 1901 First Avenue, Walnut Creek, California 94596.

Ocean Birding in February

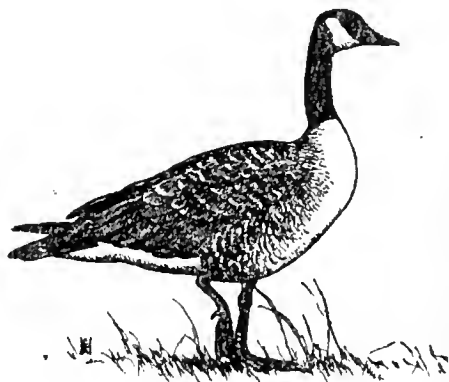
A pelagic trip leaving from Monterey is scheduled for February 13. We hope to see Black-footed Albatross, Northern Fulmar, Sooty Shearwater, Slender-billed Shearwater, Fork-tailed Storm-petrel, Black-legged Kittiwake, Ancient Murrelet, Cassin's Auklet, Rhinoceros Auklet, and others. The boat will depart at 8:00 a.m. and return at about 3:00 p.m. The fare is \$13.00 per person. For reservations please send a check payable to: Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, California 94705. Details of the trip will be sent with an acknowledgement.



Field Trips Calendar

Sunday, Dec. 5 — Miwok Trail, GGNRA. See November *Gull* for details. Leader: Pat Triggs (664-8502).

Wednesday, December 8—Mini-trip to Point Isabel and Berkeley waterfront for a close look at bay and estuary birds, as well as Burrowing and Short-eared Owls. From El Cerrito take Central Ave. west, cross Hwy. 17 on overpass, continue to end of Central, turn right into Isabel St., to Pt. Isabel parking lot. Meet at **9:00 a.m.** Lunch optional. Any questions, call Ruth Voss (525-8032).



Saturday, December 11—Oursan Trail. A four-mile walk along Briones Reservoir. Wood Ducks and Ring-necked Ducks regularly winter here. From Orinda drive 2 miles north on Camino Pablo, turn east into Bear Creek Road. Drive 4 miles to EBMUD trail staging area, just across a small bridge, 1/8 mile west of entrance to Briones Regional Park. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** and bring lunch to carry. Leader: Gene Hull (525-6893).

Sunday, December 12—Palo Alto marshes. A good place for shorebirds and waterfowl, including Blue-winged Teal, European Wigeon, and Thayer's Gull. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor pond. Take Embarcadero Road exit east off Hwy. 101. Bring lunch. Leader: Hans Johansen (525-6628).

Sunday, December 12—A leisurely hour at Lakeside Park and a visit to the Fungus Fair at the Oakland Museum 'til noon—so you won't have to miss The Game in the afternoon. Our leader covers the whole scene, not just birds. Meet at **9:00 a.m.** at the Rotary Science Center at Lake Merritt. Leader: George Peyton (531-5588).

Wednesday, December 15—Mini-trip at San Francisco Zoo aviary to learn about the exotic birds there. Mike Wihler (664-6567) will tell their stories. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at zoo ticket office, Sloat and 45th Ave. Accessible by Muni bus #18 and L streetcar. Lunch optional.

Sunday, January 2—A two-mile walk to Tennessee Cove, Golden Gate National Rec. Area, to look for shore and ocean birds. Take Hwy. 1 exit off Hwy. 101 toward Stinson Beach. In about 1/4 mile turn left into Tennessee Valley Road. Meet at end of road at **9:00 a.m.** Bring lunch and warm clothing. Leader: Betty Short (921-3020, work).

Saturday & Sunday, January 3 & 9—Sacramento and Grey Lodge Wildlife Refuges for some of the largest concentrations of waterfowl in the country. Make reservations *now* for Saturday night at Markay's Motel, Gridley (916) 846-3758, Pacific Motel, Gridley (916) 846-9915, or Buck-

ner's Motel, Biggs. There is a State campground at Colusa. **On Saturday**, meet at the Sacramento Refuge, seven miles south of Willows at **9:00 a.m.** Drive via highways 80, 505, and 5. **On Sunday** meet at Grey Lodge Refuge at **9:00 a.m.** Approach via 99 and follow signs out of Live Oak or Gridley. Leaders: Harry and Betty Adamson (283-2164).

Sunday, January 9—A one-day bus trip to Grey Lodge Wildlife Refuge. First loading in San Francisco at Grove and Larkin in front of Civic Auditorium; bus will be there at **5:45 a.m.**, and leave at 6 a.m. **Sorry, no waiting for late-comers.** Second loading at **6:15 a.m.** in Berkeley at the old SP depot off University Ave., near Spenger's Restaurant. Park underneath freeway. Bring lunch, and be prepared to walk three or four miles. We will stop for dinner on way back if time allows. Cost \$10 per person. Make reservation and send check (including your phone number) to Pat Triggs, 2038 33rd Ave., San Francisco 94116 (664-8502). Deadline, January 5. Trip open to members of other Audubon chapters.

FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

Color Banded Long-Billed Curlews

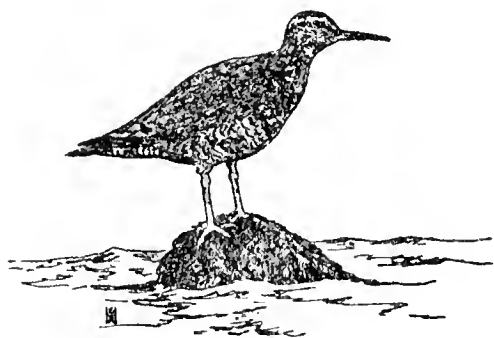
Adult and juvenile Long-billed Curlews have been banded with red, yellow, green, or light blue plastic leg bands (and with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service metal leg bands) in the Columbia Basin of southeastern Washington. The bands are the same size as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bands and are placed on the opposite leg. They each have a black number (from 1 to 100) printed on them, and are visible on standing or perching birds.

Status, behavior, migration, and territory selection are several of the more important points being studied.

Should you see any of these birds, please write: Bird Banding Laboratory, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Laurel, Maryland 20811. Include date, time of day, and location of the observation; plus name of observer(s), color of band, and if possible, the number printed on the band. Also include the activity of the bird at the time of sighting, the type of habitat it was sighted in (e.g., grassland, mudflats along a lake, etc.), and the number of other curlews associated with the marked individual(s).

Julia N. Fitzner
Battelle-Northwest Laboratories
P. O. Box 999
Richland, Washington 99352

The GGAS would like to start a slide library of California birds. If you have excellent slides of California birds you wish to donate to GGAS for this purpose, send them to the office. If you wish to have them returned to you in the event they cannot be used, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.



September-October Observations

The heart of fall migration is contained in this report combining two months. Waves of vagrants hit our coast (although the long stretches of clear weather reduced the numbers, especially in October), shorebirds continued to pour through, and flocks of seabirds arrived offshore. Throughout the report, all Farallon sightings should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Pt. Reyes observations are listed by ranches (Nunes, Mendoza, Rogers, Spaletta, Hall) or areas (Fish Docks, Willows—a new spot nearby, Drake's Beach, Abandoned Ranch, RCA station).

A **Red-necked Grebe** on Clear Lake 6 Sep (KG) was not only early but exceptionally rare inland: here the 2nd county record. Three **Flesh-footed Shearwaters**, always a treat, were spotted in Monterey Bay: 2 Sep (RS), 18 Sep (JL,DR *et al.*) and 2 Oct (SS,DE). Single **Manx Shearwaters** were observed in Monterey Bay 13 Sep (DbR) and 11 Oct (RS), but four were reported 3 Oct (WR *et al.*). **Fork-tailed Storm-petrels** continue to be an enigma. Several top state birders still have yet to see one (DE,SL for example), but singles were in Monterey Bay 2 Sep (RS), 11 Oct (RS), 17 Oct (HK) and 2 were found on 11 Sep (SFB), while another was seen from shore off Pt. Pinos 16 Sep (RS). One or two **Least Storm-petrels**, extremely rare this far north, were sighted 11 Oct (RS *et al.*) and 2 **Wilson's Storm-petrels** were in the flock 9-17 Oct (SFB *et al.*).

Northern California's second **Blue-footed Booby** was a sub-adult found by a ranger at New Hogan Res. in Calaveras Co. 15 Sep. The bird appeared after the hurricane off S. Calif. that drove hundreds of Least Storm-petrels into the Salton Sea and probably was responsible for bringing this bird. It became quite tame and adept at stealing fish until its death, of unknown causes, on 19 Oct.

The first of the uncommon **Eurasian Wigeon** for the winter were a male at Alameda 22 Oct (RH *et al.*) and a female at Bolinas 27 Oct (A&WG). A male **Tufted Duck**, the sixth for the state, appeared at Lake Merritt 30 Oct. and remained to this writing (HC *et al.*). This is the first in our area since the female at Stow Lake, San Francisco in the winter of 1972. Just as exciting was an adult **Mississippi Kite**, the 2nd for N.Cal., that was viewed over Pt. Diablo 13 Sep (WMP,AM). This spot may well be the best hawk-watching spot west of the Mississippi River. Besides large numbers of migrant accipiters and common raptors, one may see almost all the hawks in our area: Golden Eagle, Ferruginous, and Rough-legged were spotted in October, as well as single **Broad-winged Hawks** 16 Sep (BF *et al.*), 23

Sep (JM), 22 Oct (RS) and 23 Oct (JMs), the only place they are regular in the state. A **Bald Eagle** at the Farallons 1 Oct was the first island record.

6 Semipalmated Plovers at Clear Lake 6 Sep (DR,DD,KG) constituted only the 2nd Lake Co. record of this shorebird, uncommon inland. **2 Am. Golden Plovers** at Coyote Hills RP 18 Sep were excellent Alameda Co. birds (NS *et al*); another was at Mendoza ranch 16-19 Oct (BR). Of our regular but uncommon shorebirds I received about 45 Pectoral Sandpiper reports, including birds at such interesting locations as Lake Merced (NSv), the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza (EC; hereafter BBTP), and Lake Co. (5 birds-DR,DD), and 33 reports of Baird's Sandpiper. We only average one **Stilt Sandpiper** a year in our area: this fall it was found at Rodeo Lagoon 4 Sep (VR). The incredible **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** at the Salinas R. mouth were reported through 6 Sep (RB,VY). The final super shorebird was a **Ruff** near Lover's Pt. in Pacific Grove 29 Oct through the end of the period (RS,DD *et al*).

Parasitic Jaegers at the BBTP 25 Sep (JE) and 31 Oct (RD) were unusual there. More exciting are **Long-tailed Jaegers**: Four were in Monterey Bay 2 Sep (RS) and another on 18 Sep (DR,JL *et al*). This fall up to seven **South Polar Skuas** were found in Monterey Bay. An unpredictable **Franklin's Gull** was there 17 Oct (TC,JM *et al*) and another visited Palo Alto 23 Oct (JW). **Arctic Terns** are common well offshore in Sep.-Oct. but rare along the coast, yet 6 were at the BBTP 4 Sep and 2 there 17 Oct (SFB), 3 at the Carmel R. mouth 5 Sep (VR), and 5 at the Salinas R. mouth 15 Sep (RS). Single **Black Terns**, most unusual on the coast, were at Drake's Beach 2 Sep (DS) and offshore in Monterey Bay 11 Oct (RS). **Xantus' Murrelets** occur in small numbers in Monterey Bay in fall, but unprecedented was one 2 Oct (RS *et al*) of the southern race *Endomychura hypoleuca hypoleuca*, the northernmost record in California.

Interesting was a roosting **Saw-whet Owl** at the willows on the tip of Pt. Reyes 13 Oct (GZ,AG). Well out of range was a **White-winged Dove** on the Farallons 24 Sep. A migrant almost never found was a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at Mendoza 16 Sep (A&WG). An unusual hummingbird at the White's feeder in Oakland from July to 27 Oct was identified as a probable **Anna's X Costa's** hybrid (DR,DE), a form known only from a few previous probable sightings in S. Calif. A **Black-chinned Hummingbird** on the Farallons 13-16 Sep was the first island record; but equally good were **Sage Thrashers** there on 5, 15, and 22 Sep. Nine **Tropical Kingbirds** constitutes a good fall for them: 3 were in Monterey Co. 10-16 Oct (RS,JM), 3 on Pt. Reyes 2-29 Oct (EM,JM,BR *et al*), and singles near Bolinas 6 Oct. (DF) Pigeon Pt. 31 Oct.-1 Nov. (PM), and the Farallons 28 Oct. Our most exciting coastal vagrant was one not only rare in Calif. but one most active birders have yet to see: a **Great-crested Flycatcher** at Bolinas 3 Oct (BC,DS,SFB,RLeV). A **Brown Thrasher** 10 Oct was at an unusual location in Sunol Reg. Pk. (AE).

The "**Blue-headed**" **Vireo**, the eastern race of the Solitary Vireo, was on the Farallons 24 Sep; only a handful of records of this impressive form

exist in Calif. **Red-eyed Vireos** were at Mendoza 19-20 Sep (JW, JM *et al*) and the Farallons 1 Oct. Three undoubted **Philadelphia Vireos** were observed: 19-23 Sep. at the willows (CH, DE, JM) and Farallon birds 25 Sep. and 12 Oct. Caution should be exercised in identifying this very rare species, as Warbling Vireos get quite yellow-flanked in the fall (although never bright yellow across the entire breast.)

But on to the warblers! We can add 17 **Black-and-whites** to the 74 previous coastal mainland records in N.Cal.:

1	6 Sep	Golden Gate Park	DM
1	9 Sep	Mendoza	BJ
1	12 Sep	Battery Wallace	JL, SL
1	15 Sep	Golden Gate Park	BF
1	25 Sep	Rodeo Lagoon	CC
2	25-26 Sep	San Francisco	MG
1	26-29 Sep	Mendoza	A&WG <i>et al</i>
2	3 Oct	Asilomar, Monterey Co.	LCB <i>et al</i>
1	5 Oct	Tilden Park	VV
1	9-11 Oct	Carmel R. mouth	RS <i>et al</i>
2	16-17 Oct	Rodco Lagoon	KY <i>et al</i>
1	16 Oct	Carmel R. mouth	JM <i>et al</i>
1	18 Oct	Golden Gate Park	KY <i>et al</i>
1	25 Oct	Sharp Park, Pacifica	SFB

19 **Tennessee Warblers** were found: 9 on Pt. Reyes, 4 in Monterey Co., 4 on the Farallons, and singles in Golden Gate Pk. and at Moss Beach, San Mateo Co. There were nearly 200 previous fall records in N.Cal. **Virginia's Warblers** are quite scarce: singles at Nearys Lagoon, Santa Cruz 9 Sep (RM), Esplanade, Monterey Co. 15-16 Sep (RS), and Moss Beach 20-24 Sep (PM, JM). **Northern Parulas** at the Fish Docks 25-26 Sep (DE, DR *et al*), Carmel R. on 9-11 Oct (RS *et al*), and Moss Beach 27 Oct (BS) add to only 13 previous fall mainland coast records. This fall contributed 8 **Magnolia Warblers**, all on the coast (no Farallon!) to the previous 47 mainland coastal records in N.Cal.:

1	4 Sep	Bolinas	PRBO
1	20-24 Sep	Moss Beach	PM, JM
1	25 Sep	Mendoza	DR, DD <i>et al</i>
1	27 Sep	Pacific Grove	DbR
2	1 Oct	Pt. Pinos	RS, DD, SL
1	15 Oct	Pt. Pinos	JL
1	29-31 Oct	Mendoza	JM <i>et al</i>

Cape May Warblers made a stronger than usual showing. The Farallons had one 24 Sep and a bright fall male at Nunes 25-29 Sep (LCB, DR *et al*) along with a dull bird at Mendoza 3 Oct (SFB) bring the mainland fall records in N.Cal. to 17. As a state Calif. averages about 23 **Black-throated Blues** a fall. Our area had 6 this fall:

1	21 Sep	Mendoza	A&WG
1	26 Sep	Willows	GA,GZ
1	26-28 Sep	Fish Docks	BJ,JM <i>et al</i>
1	21 Oct	Farallons	PRBO
1	28 Oct	Golden Gate Park	KY <i>et al</i>
1	29 Oct	Asilomar	RS

Two **Black-throated Green Warblers** 19-21 Oct at Mendoza (DE *et al*) were the first fall records for Pt. Reyes, making them one of the best finds there this fall. A **Townsend X Hermit** hybrid studied at the Fish Docks 11 Sep (JL,SL) was one of the few reports of this combination. N.Cal. averages about 6 **Blackburnian Warblers** each fall, this year we were right on:

1	19-24 Sep	Fish Docks	CC,BJ <i>et al</i>
1	23 Sep	Mendoza	EM,JM
2	24 Sep	Farallons	PRBO
1	25 Oct	Montara	PM
1	30 Oct	Battery Wallace	RS,PM,BS

The best warbler by far was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at the Fish Docks 2-7 Sep (WMP *et al*), the 13th state record. We received just about our annual quota of **Chestnut-sided Warblers**: twelve—two between 25-28 Sep at Nunes and the Willows (DE, DR, JM *et al*), one in the Carmel R. mouth 10 Oct (RS *et al*), and 9 on the Farallons: singles 19 Sep, 20 Sep and 7 arriving on 24 Sep. **Bay-breasted Warblers** on the Farallons 24 Sep and 2 Oct, and 1 at the Fish Docks 23-24 Oct bring the fall records in N. Cal. over twenty.

Calif. as a whole averages about 135 **Blackpolls** a fall. We had 47: 18 in Marin Co., 22 on the Farallons, 5 in Monterey Co., and 2 in San Mateo Co. The first **Palm Warbler** was 19 Sep at the RCA station (V&SN) and by the end of Oct. we recorded about 47: about 20 on the Farallons, 11 on Pt. Reyes, 8 in San Mateo Co., 6 in Monterey Co., and 2 in San Francisco, the most unusual being one 25 miles inland in the Carmel Valley 29 Oct (RS). The 32nd N. Cal. **Prairie Warbler** delighted viewers at Sharp Park, Pacifica from 24 Oct to 1 Nov. (BS *et al*) **Ovenbirds** are not all that uncommon—Over 50 previous fall records in N. Cal.—but are tough to see. 5 of the 7 reports this fall were on the Farallons or banded at Bolinas (PRBO), but one was at the Willows 9 Oct (LCB) and another in Tilden Park 27 Sep (VV) was not only not in a net, but constitutes the first interior fall record in N.Cal. Four **Northern Waterthrushes** (averaging about 34 a fall in all of Cal.) were found: Pt. Pinos 5 Sep (VR), Carmel R. mouth 5 Sep (VR) and 19 Sep (JLa), and the Fish Docks 13 Sep (RS). The 16th fall **Hooded Warbler** in all of Cal. was at Carmel R. 15 Sep (RS); we only average 4 a year in Cal. Almost as rare is the **Canada Warbler**: the 39th and 40th state records were at Drake's Beach 11 Sep (RC) and Pacific Grove 3 Oct (BH). Finally, 36 **American Redstarts** were found: 29 along the coast (18 Marin Co., 7 San Mateo Co., 3 Monterey Co., 1 Santa Cruz Co.), 5 on the Farallons, and 2 interior. The latter were at Tilden

Park 11 Sep (EG) and at the base of Mt. Diablo 30 Sep (DE). Interesting were 3 reports of adult males in these totals, rarely found in the fall: 20-22 Sep at the Fish Docks (JM *et al*), 24 Sep on the Farallons, and 3 Oct at Asilomar (LCB *et al*).

Seven **Bobolinks** found observers: 3 at the Fish Docks 11 Sep (DC), 2 at Crespi Pond, Pt. Pinos 18 Sep (JLa) and 26 Sep-2 Oct (DbR), and Farallon singles 11 Sep, 22 Sep, and 24-29 Sep. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at the Roger's Ranch 18-19 Sep (SL) was unusual to Pt. Reyes. Four **Orchard Orioles**, very rare in our area, were identified: 1 at Mendoza 19 Sep (LCB), two on the Farallons 24 Sep (including an adult female—most vagrants are immature birds), and one at the Pt. Reyes NS Hdqs. 30 Sep (JM, WMP); the latter bird was accompanied by a "Baltimore" Oriole (WMP), while another of this form was on the Farallons 13 Oct.

All three of our rare and exciting tanagers made appearances: a male **Hepatic** at Solano Co. park 2-4 Sep (DG, AC *et al*), a male **Summer** in residential Kensington 25 Sep (MJ), and a **Scarlet** on the Farallons 22 Oct. Much more expected were the 9 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**: 3 Sep in the Oakland hills (MC), 22 Sep in residential Berkeley (NB), 30 Sep-2 Oct in Colma (R&ME), 7 Oct at Inverness (BL), 24 Oct at the Fish Docks (MLR *et al*), and Farallon singles 19, 21, 24 Sep and 21 Oct. An **Indigo Bunting** briefly visited the Willows on 26 Sep (GZ, GA) as did a female **Cassin's Finch**, unusual to the coast, on 3 Oct (SFB). Two **Lark Buntings** were found: 18-20 Sep at Bodega Bay (JW, JM *et al*) and 19 Sep at Nunes (CH). Nearys Lagoon had a **Blue Grosbeak** 14 Sep (DP).

Interesting sparrows were widespread. **Vespers** near the coast were at Nearys Lagoon 10-11 Sep (RM, TB, PM) and 2 each in Oakland 3 Oct (DF) and at Pigeon Pt. 16 Oct (PM). A **Black-throated** on the Farallons 18-26 Sep was very unusual, as were single **Tree Sparrows** there 12 & 28 Oct. Another Tree Sparrow was banded at Bolinas 26 Oct (PRBO). **Clay-colored**s reached the Farallons 12 Sep, 21-24 Sep, and 10 Oct, while another was spotted at Pigeon Pt. 16 Oct (PM *et al*). **Swamp Sparrow** reports were singles at the Carmel R. mouth 23 Oct (EM) and on the Farallons 28 Oct. An early **White-throated Sparrow** was at Nunes 30 Sep (JM). 4 **Chestnut-collared Longspurs** were identified: 25 Sep-10 Oct at the Hall ranch (CC, JRe, NS *et al*), 3 Oct south of Half Moon Bay (RS, DD), and two at Nunes 19-29 Oct (BF *et al*). At the latter location counts between 1 and 12 of **Lapland Longspurs** were made 19-31 Oct and other singles were at Hall 10 Oct (NS) and Princeton 8 Oct (BS).

Observers: Garth Alton, Stephen F. Bailey, Laurence C. Binford, Terry Bledsoe, Ron Branson, Nacio Brown, Eric Caine, Roy Carlson, Chris Carpenter, Mary Carriger, Ted Chandik, Billy Clow, Herold Connon, Afton Crooks, Dick Cunningham, Richard Dean, Donna Dittmann, Joe Eaton, Roy & Marie Edmison, Art Edwards, Dick Erickson, David Fisher, Bud Fry, Dave Gaines, Ed Gaines, Kimball Garrett, Albert & Wilma Ghiorso, Madeline Grumbach, Ralph Hilton, Bob Hirt, Craig Hohenberger, Margaret Jessop, Bob Johnsen, Harry Krueger, Jerry Langem (JLa), Bill

Lenarz, Ron LeValley, John Luther (JL), Susanne Luther, Eugene Maki-shima, Alice Mericourt, Peter Metropulos, Randy Morgan, Joe Morlan (JM), Jim Morris (JMs), Dan Murphy, Virginia & Scott Norris, Dennis Parker, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, William M. Pursell, William Reese, Jack Reinoehl, Van Remsen, Bob Richmond, Don Roberson (DR), Debbi Robinson (DbR), Mary L. Rosegay, Dave Shuford, Rich Stallcup, Nick Story (NS), Steve Summers, Naomi Svenningsen (NSv), Vincent Vesterby, Jon Winter, Vern Yadon, Keiko Yamane, Gary Zamzow.

DON ROBERSON, *Observations Editor*

2244 Encinal Ave #5, Alameda, CA 94501 (865-2462)

SCHOLARSHIP TO AUDUBON WORKSHOP OF THE WEST

A scholarship is available from the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., for the Audubon Workshop of the West for one two-week session in 1977. The workshop has sessions from mid-June to mid-August. Applications may be obtained at the Golden Gate office, 2718 Telegraph Ave., Suite 206, Berkeley. Or for more information, telephone 843-2222.

COOPER MEETING TO HEAR TALK ON ACORN WOODPECKERS

The Cooper Ornithological Society, Northern Division, will have its next meeting on Thursday, 2 December, at 8:00 p.m. in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley. Topic for the evening will be "Social Dynamics of Acorn Woodpeckers in Central Coastal California" by Walter Koenig of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. The public is invited.

HELP!

Our Rare Bird Alert tape machine was recently stolen from the office and will cost \$403 to replace. Can you donate any or all of this? Birders of the world will be eternally grateful, and our budget will heal faster. Contributions are tax-deductible, too.

Gifts and Bequests

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following gifts and bequests: for Audubon Canyon Ranch in memory of Clelia Paroni, from Olga Alpen; for Audubon Canyon Ranch Ehrhardt Library, from Mary K. Wehausen; for Golden Gate Audubon Society in memory of Victoria S. Kimball, from Cynthia Christensen, Ahna Stern-Vincent, Jacqui Hall, Debbie Hall, Betty Hill, Pat Chamberlin, Lillian Delere; general gifts from Bruce Jeanette Howard and Mary A. Sampson.

Memorial and honorary gifts and bequests will be used as specified by the donors. Acknowledgement will be made in *The Gull* and personally by the Corresponding Secretary, Shirley Taylor. Please send checks made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society to: Corresponding Secretary, GGAS, 2718 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, California 94705. All gifts are tax deductible.



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Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$15 per year (individual); \$18 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks (no cash) payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$3 per year; single issues 30¢. High school and college student membership \$8.50 per year. Senior citizen individual, \$12.00; senior citizen family, \$15.00.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon Society in 1948.

The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month.